

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, June 2, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, in the Colchester High School Library Media Center. Board Directors in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, and Jennifer Fath. Administrators and employees in attendance were Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmoli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, CMS Principal Tara Sharkey, MBS Principal Jordan Burke, MBS Grade 3 Teacher Anne Rayner-Cyr, and UMS Principal Chris Antonicci. There was one audience member.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Lindsey Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens Participation*

None.

III. Hear Elementary Math Program Presentation

Informational

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli, along with MBS Principal Jordan Burke and MBS Grade 3 Teacher Anne Rayner-Cyr, presented to the board the district's selection process and implementation plan for a new elementary math program. The presentation gave insight into this significant instructional initiative and the work completed to support the transition. Ms. Carmolli stated the goal of this transition is to increase engagement in mathematics for both students and teachers, while also strengthening the consistency and fidelity of math instruction across classrooms. Over the long term, the district aims to improve overall student math achievement outcomes. A district team reviewed several evidence-based math programs before selecting Open Up Illustrative Math as the new elementary math curriculum. The implementation process will occur over two years, beginning this summer, with full implementation anticipated during the 2027–2028 school year.

The board asked clarifying questions about the implementation process.

IV. Hear UMS Principal Report

Informational

UMS Principal Chris Antonicci provided the board with the UMS spring principal report. He presented student highlights, an academic highlight, and an equity initiative from the year. These included; field trips exploring the Colchester Community and Chittenden County, the 50 Mile Club and 10,000 Club, the newly implemented Art Gallery and added Champ Display, a video clip of the Kindness Song performed at the UMS Musical Informance, improving reading comprehension scores with Read-out-loud Think-out-loud Story Time lead by teachers and Story Time with Diversity Equity and Inclusion Coordinator Jamilah Vogel for lessons on the Social Justice Standard, and noting that Math Fact Fluency is on the rise with Kindergarten at a 92% understanding rate.

The board presented Principal Antonicci with a framed photograph of UMS as a thank you for his time with the district and a celebration of his retirement.

V. Hear CMS Principal Report

Informational

CMS Principal Tara Sharkey provided the board with the CMS spring principal report. She presented student highlights, an academic highlight, and an equity initiative from the year. These included; working towards building a community with school wide events like an Olympic Flag Ceremony, Kindness Awards, modern band performances, guest speakers on bullying, and the Student vs Staff Basketball Game, strengthening academics and engagement by providing an actor workshop while reading *Romeo and Juliet*, teaching social skills with group projects, and continuing to enhance community partnerships with MBS reading equity groups, CHS peer mentoring program, and UVM partnership Exploring Identity Through Arts groups.

The board asked what key piece of knowledge Principal Sharkey would give to someone new to the CMS building. Principal Sharkey emphasized the hard work that the CMS staff put into building relationships with each and every student with the goal of all students having at least one trusted adult.

VI. Second Reading of School Board Policies

Action

- New: Cell Phones

Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz presented the board with the proposed CSD Policy language for cell phones (PK-12). This policy will be required of all schools by the Vermont Agency of Education starting in the 26-27 school year. Ms. Lutz stated each building will have procedures that will support the policy language and that are in alignment with the developmental age of the students and the building's systems.

The board asked clarifying questions about the policy and recommended proof reading for grammatical errors.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the second reading of the Cell Phone policy with recommended edits. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: 6/2/26 - REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

| Contract Type | First Name | Last Name | Category | Position | Hours/Wk | Building | Agenda Information | Person Replacing | Budgeted | Admin Support |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Teacher | Bridget | Tierney | New Hire | Elementary Teacher | 1.0 | UMS | Request to Hire | | Yes | Yes |
| Teacher | Emma | Montgomery | New Hire | Elementary Teacher LTS 9/7/26 - 12/23/26 | 1.0 | UMS | Request to Hire | Hannah Hill | | Yes |
| Teacher | Heather | Fischer | New Hire | Elementary Teacher LTS 8/20/26 - 10/15/26 | 1.0 | MBS | Request to Hire | Catherine Lamoureux | | Yes |
| Teacher | Courtney | Boetsma | New Hire | Driver's Ed | 0.1 | CHS | Request to Hire | | | |

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Board Approval Required

| Contract Type | First Name | Last Name | Category | Position | Hours/Wk | Building | Agenda Information | Person Replacing | Budgeted | Admin Support |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational

| Contract Type | First Name | Last Name | Category | Position | Hours/Wk | Building | Agenda Information | Person Replacing | Budgeted | Admin Support |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Support Staff | Charlton | Whitney | Transfer | HR Coordinator | 40 | CO | Notice of Transfer | Mary Crowley | Yes | Yes |
| Support Staff | Melissa | Conchieri | Resignation | Occupational Therapist Assistant | 37.5 | MBS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Julia | Ljungvall | Resignation | Behavior Interventionist | 35.0 | PPS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Elliot | Cross | Resignation | Paraeducator | 32.5 | MBS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Amy | Adams | Resignation | Autism Interventionist | 37.0 | CMS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Jessica | Morey | Resignation | Paraeducator | 32.5 | PPS | Notice of Resignation | | | |

Director Longo moved to approve the consent agenda as provided. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Action

Director Longo moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2026 general meeting and the May 26, 2026 special meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports

Informational

- A construction update was shared for the facilities work happening at PPS
- UMS construction kickoff meeting taking place later in the week

X. Future Agenda Items

Informational

- Policy Work
- Legislative Update
- Future Purchases
- Board Planning for 26-27

XI. Adjournment

Director Kigonya moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Gabrielle Brooks

Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes

Board Clerk